GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1034
ANSWERED ON:25.11.2002
EFFECTS OF CONSUMPTION OF FIREWOOD ON FOREST COVER
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Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) the annual fire wood production vis-Ã -vis consumption during each of the last three years, State-wise;

(b) whether the consumption rate is much higher than the production rate;

(c) if so, whether such situation results in the depletion of forest cover; and

(d) if so, the steps taken by the Government in this regard?

Answer

MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI T.R. BAALU)

(a) & (b) According to a study of Forest Survey of India, in 1996 the requirement and supply of fuel-wood in the country is of the order of 201 and 115 million tonnes respectively. However, no such study has been conducted during the last three years so far on the State-wise annual fire wood production vis-Ã -vis consumption.

(c) Increase in biotic pressure on forests does have an adverse effect on forest cover.

(d) Various measures taken to increase forests in the country are:

i) Afforestation programmes are undertaken by States/UTs from their own resources as well as with financial assistance from Government of India.

ii) Externally aided projects are being implemented for development and preservation of forests.

iii) Guidelines to all States/UTs have been issued to involve village communities in protection and regeneration of degraded forests.

iv) Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980 has been enacted to regulate the diversion of forest lands.

v) A protected areas net-work has been established.

vi) Ministry has prepared a National Forestry Action Plan to enhance the contribution of forestry and tree resources for ecological stability and people centered development through improvement in investment for conservation and development of forest resources.